

## Washington Leads the Way



**DONALD WASHINGTON** was nominated to become United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana in September of 2001,

by President George W. Bush, and was confirmed by the United States Senate on October 23, 2001. As United States Attorney, Mr. Washington is responsible for prosecuting and defending the interests of the United States.

Eager to answer President Bush's call for a national concerted effort to reduce the number of violent crimes in America, Washington is leading the development and implementation of the Western District of Louisiana's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative targeting the federal prosecution of gun criminals who are felons, illegal aliens, domestic abusers, and drug users. "It's like throwing a pebble in a pond," says Washington. "because the ripples will affect other kinds of crimes."

Washington has enlisted the help of the Police and Sheriff's Departments in Lafayette, Lake Charles, Shreveport, Alexandria, and Monroe; and has partnered with both UL Lafayette and UL Monroe in a comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence by networking existing local programs and providing those programs with additional tools. The intent of Project Safe Neighborhoods is that people who use guns in violent crimes will be put away in federal prisons. The objective, says Washington, is to get those people out of society — to give neighborhoods a break.

## It's "Trigger Time" In Lake Charles

By Donald D. Dixon  
Chief of Police Lake Charles, La.

**W**hen I became Chief of Police in Lake Charles, 1/1/2002, I started reviewing the Uniform Crime Reports for Lake Charles of the previous three years and noticed an alarming amount of crimes committed with firearms. I felt that the Department needed to be more proactive in this area.

Timing is sometimes everything, and shortly after I became Chief, I was visited by United States Attorney Don Washington and AUSA Joe Mickel. They explained to me the PSN initiative and asked if the LCPD would participate. As a retired FBI agent, I have participated in many successful task forces; however, task forces are sometimes created and then abolished with the change in management. I agreed to participate but was somewhat skeptical about how it would be received by Federal Judges and about the United States Attorney's Office's level of commitment with regards to providing enough AUSAs to handle the volume of cases. I immediately ordered an ATF trace to be done on all weapons taken in as evidence and assigned one officer on a part time basis to do follow up investigations on seized weapons to determine if the circumstance met the PSN guidelines.

Within the first few days an arrest was made of a convicted felon in possession of burglary tools and a

handgun with an obliterated serial number. This case was our first case submitted and an indictment was returned the next month and the subject pled guilty and was sentenced to 180 months. It was a great start and I have been impressed enough with the results that we now have three full time officers working the PSN project under the title of TRIGGER TIME. I am a true believer and must commend the efforts of ATF, United States Attorneys Office (WDLA), United States Marshals Office and the Calcasieu Parish District Attorney's Office for their efforts in helping make a difference.

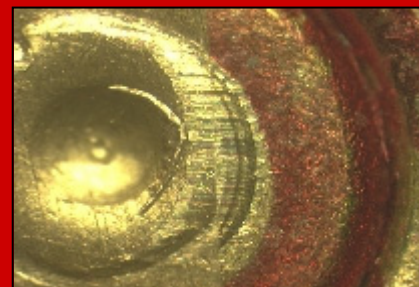
This year (2003) as of 12/31/03, the LCPD has run 219 gun traces and submitted 83 cases for Federal prosecution. This has made a tremendous impact as evidenced by the following statistics. In 2002, there were 122 armed robberies by firearm and 81 assaults with a firearm. In 2003 as of 12/31/03, we have had 83 armed robberies with a firearm and 61 assaults by a firearm, which is a reduction of 32%. The PSN project has received numerous positive media coverage and I have personally received many positive comments from citizens in Lake Charles. The LCPD will continue to support the PSN initiative and I hope this project does not fall by the wayside as a result of any administrative change.



## New Ballistic Technology For Louisiana

By Doug Lancon

**T**he National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program is a system designed to allow agencies to compare firearms evidence with other agencies through a network of computers. In order to discover links between crimes not known to be connected, firearms examiners have long maintained "open case files" of physical evidence. The NIBIN system enables comparisons of the open-case file with exhibits from other agencies in the region as well as around the country.



# *ATF and Project Safe Neighborhoods*

**By Wade Rasberry**

Resident Agent in Charge, Shreveport Field Office

**T**he Shreveport Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is primarily tasked to enforce the federal firearms, explosives and arson laws in the Western District of Louisiana. Currently, the Shreveport Field Office and the Baton Rouge Field Office cover the Western District of Louisiana. Shreveport is responsible for the 29 Parishes in the North and Baton Rouge is responsible for the 13 Parishes in the South. ATF focuses on the most violent felony offenders and those who utilize firearms in crimes of violence or drug activity.

ATF and local law enforcement have been working hand in hand for decades combating criminals and the guns they use to commit their crimes. We have talked for years about how to work

together to do a better job. We have discussed state prosecution verses federal prosecution. We have skirmished in small turf battles between the various prosecutors, and ourselves all the while, the criminals and crimes of violence are flourishing. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is not a completely new idea, but it is a firm commitment between all of our agencies to work together, to be more efficient, to prosecute in the court where justice is best served. Many new programs are dreamed up and implemented, but few have a long-term positive impact.

PSN is unique; it is working. There are tremendous success stories throughout the entire Western District of Louisiana. Monroe, Shreveport and Alexandria have had numerous high profile cases and dozens of cases that don't receive the same degree of media attention, but are nonetheless extremely significant. Sentences for violent armed criminals have risen tremendously

throughout the district. The local District Attorney's Offices are working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Attorney's Office. In some instances, charges are being divided, with the state prosecuting one portion of the case and the United States prosecuting another portion. I have spoken to officials in Lafayette and Lake Charles who are echoing the same sentiment. The efforts in the southern parishes are clearly on par with those in the north.

The tracing of all crime guns seized by every agency has been an extremely important part of the PSN initiative. All of the participating agencies have embraced the concept and the results are very positive. The Shreveport Police Department was able to obtain a PSN Grant and much of the grant proposal was based on information that was captured from the Firearms Tracing Form. PSN has been a tremendous success thus far and there are no indications that its performance will do anything but improve.



## *Setting the Standard...*

**T**he following law enforcement officers have received commendation letters from the U. S. Attorney,

Donald W. Washington, for their outstanding contributions to the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program:

**Special Agent Thomas A. Faison** (ATF - Lafayette) received a letter of commendation addressed to the Special Agent-in-Charge of the ATF Field Office in New Orleans recognizing his outstanding contributions in the implementation of the PSN initiative in the Lafayette, Lake Charles, and Alexandria areas.

**Lieutenant Ray Laviolet** (Lake Charles Police Department) received a letter of commendation addressed to the Mayor of Lake Charles for his exemplary efforts and demonstrated excellence in the development of cases for prosecution and the implementation of the PSN Program in the Lake Charles area.

**Detective Mike Moore** (Lafayette Police Department retired) received a letter of commendation addressed to the Lafayette City-Parish President for his dedicated professionalism in connection with his outstanding contributions in the implementation of the PSN Program within the Lafayette Police Department.

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# PSN In Action



In Lafayette, four defendants were convicted in 2003 in connection with a January 2002 conspiracy and armed carjacking of a 2001 Cadillac from NFL football player Scotty Anderson of the Detroit Lions.

The offense occurred after Anderson and his friend, Rodney Gattin were lured by **Keaha Anderson** and **Tamika Roberts** to the Cajundome, where **Terrell Richardson** and **Kendall Singleton** ambushed Anderson and Gattin, brandishing handguns as they took Anderson's Cadillac.

The defendants were sentenced in April and July of 2003 as follows: **Terrell Richardson** was sentenced to 11 years and 9 months imprisonment; **Kendall Singleton** was sentenced to 10 years and 10 months imprisonment; **Tamika Roberts** was sentenced to 36 months imprisonment. Two other men and a juvenile, who were with Richardson and Singleton at the time of the robbery were not prosecuted federally because the investigation revealed they were not directly involved in the carjacking.

This PSN case was developed and prosecuted by the Lafayette Police Department, Louisiana State Police, ATF, and the USAO.

Also in Lafayette, **Quincy Guillory** was sentenced on August 27, 2003 to 40 years and 9 months on federal charges of carjacking, two counts of using a firearm during a crime of violence, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and armed bank robbery.

The offenses occurred in December of 2000 when Guillory brandished a semi-automatic

pistol as he took a new sport utility vehicle from a family outside of a Lafayette restaurant and used the stolen vehicle as transportation two days later when, at gun point, he robbed tellers of \$11,296 at the Jeff Davis Bank in Jennings.

The investigation focused on Guillory because of information developed by FBI agents from a person who was cooperating in an unrelated bank robbery investigation. The cooperator told FBI agents that he had been an unarmed accomplice with Guillory in the December bank robbery in Jennings. Seeking verification of the informant's information, FBI agents coordinated information obtained by six different law enforcement agencies and two district attorney's offices. The result was a solid case against Guillory, supported by surveillance films, eyewitness identification, sketches prepared by forensic artists, closed case reports, DNA analysis, and other information.

The case was developed as a result of a joint effort of the FBI, Lake Charles Police Department, Louisiana State Police, ATF, Lafayette Police Department, Jennings Police Department, Eunice Police Department, District Attorney's Offices in Lafayette and Jefferson Davis Parish, and the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory.

In Shreveport, six men were convicted of federal charges for a March 13, 2003 armored car heist in which two Intertrust Armored Service guards were robbed of over \$780,000 as they made a delivery at a Hibernia National Bank branch in Shreveport. The robbers brandished an AK-47 semi-automatic assault rifle and semi-automatic pistols during the robbery, and discharged the weapons at police as they tried to escape after the robbery. One officer was wounded by a shot during a high-speed chase on I-220 Eastbound to a residential

neighborhood in Bossier City.

Two of the robbers invaded a residence and held the resident and his 93-year-old mother-in-law hostage at gun point before all six were arrested.

U.S. District Judge Donald Walter sentenced the defendants on February 12, 2004 as follows: **Larry Thompson, Sr.** was sentenced to 35 years in prison; **Larry Thompson, Jr.** was sentenced to 32 years in prison; **Anthony Gentry** was sentenced to 30 years; **Nicholas Gentry** was sentenced to 28 years and 10 months; **Pung Nguyen** was sentenced to 29 years and 7 months; and **Regan Gatti** was sentenced to 43 years and 9 months in prison.

This case was the result of a cooperative effort by ATF, Shreveport Police Department, Bossier City Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Louisiana State Police, the Caddo and Bossier Parish District Attorney's Offices, and the United States Attorney's Office.

For further information on these and other PSN cases, please contact United States Attorney Donald W. Washington at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

This and other press releases issued by the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana can be found at our website at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/law](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law)

## Setting the Standard, contd.

**Special Agent John "Brad" Gilpin** (ATF - Shreveport) received a letter of commendation addressed to the Special Agent-in-Charge of the ATF Field Office in New Orleans for his invaluable assistance in the administration of justice and invaluable contributions in the investigation and successful prosecution of Larry Thompson, Sr., Larry Thompson, Jr., Anthony Gentry, Nicholas Gentry, Regan Gatti, and Tung Nguyen regarding an armored car heist on March 13, 2003 in Shreveport, Louisiana. During this investigation, Special Agent Gilpin was responsible for coordinating 167 exhibits, as well as many law enforcement agencies.

**Task Force Agent Scott Anslum of the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office and the DEA Task Force** received a letter of commendation addressed to Sheriff David Naquin of the St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office for his outstanding assistance in the administration of justice and invaluable contributions in the investigation and successful prosecution of Michael Anthony Noel who was convicted of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime and sentenced to serve life imprisonment plus five years followed by ten years of supervised release

## New Ballistics Technology, Contd.

The equipment and maintenance are federally funded and the system is administered through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE). Training, upgrades and service are provided to keep the system current in the fight against violent crime.

The NIBIN program is near the end of its implementation through which more than 220 sites have received equipment. Once the deployment is complete NIBIN systems will be in use in more than 230 sites.

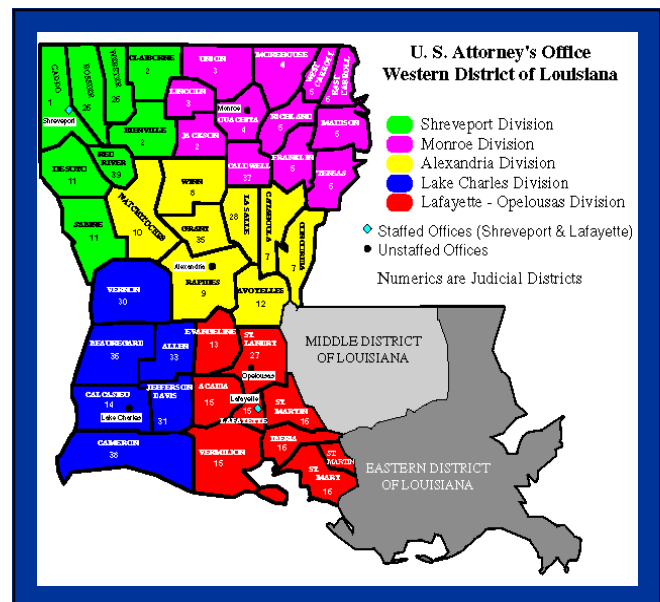
In 2003, the BATFE has completed the rollout of NIBIN stations in Louisiana. In the last few years hundreds of cold case matches have been reported in the New Orleans area. We are hoping for the same success for the entire state as the I49 and I10 corridors are now included in the NIBIN program.

The NIBIN system at the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory serves eight parishes in the Acadiana area, (Acadia, Evangeline, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Iberia, Lafayette and Vermilion.) The laboratory has staff members trained through the BATFE NIBIN program that enter bullets and cartridge cases from crime scenes and from test fired firearms submitted from around Acadiana.

Agencies can contribute to the program's success by submitting projectiles and cartridge casings from crime scenes to the laboratory for imaging. Also, submitting all weapons recovered to the laboratory to be test fired and imaged into NIBIN enhances the chances of making matches. And finally agencies can benefit by following up on the investigative leads that examiners discover through NIBIN and other firearm examinations.

Doug Lancon is a Forensic Chemist at Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratories in New Iberia, LA. He is a member of the Louisiana Association of Forensic Scientists, the Louisiana Association of Scientific Crime Investigators, the Association of Firearms and Toolmark Examiners, and the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists. Lancon has extensive training in the field and has attended many forensics meetings and symposia.

The NIBIN System is also available through the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory for 29 parishes, including Vernon, Rapides, and Avoyles parishes, and for all parishes north thereof to the Arkansas line.



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